GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4732
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014
AGRICULTURAL LAND AFFECTED BY EROSION AND NATURAL CALAMITIES
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large chunk of agricultural land in some States is affected by erosion and natural disasters every year causing downfall in agriculture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the mechanism put in place by the Government in such areas to meet any eventuality and help the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducts survey from time to time for assessing the extent of soil erosion and land degradation. As per available estimates; about 120.43 million hectare is affected by various kinds of land degradation which includes about 94.87 million hectare of areas affected by water and wind erosion across the country. The process of soil erosion and its formation is a natural process occurring simultaneously to maintain equilibrium in natural eco-system. ICAR studies have revealed that about 1 millimeter of top soil is being lost every year. Of the eroded soil, 61% gets deposited as alluvium in the plains. Further, there has been no loss in agriculture production over the years and food grain production in particular has gradually increased from 218.11 million tonnes (2009-10) to 257.13 million tonnes (2012- 13) due to various technological interventions.

(c): Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) to prevent soil erosion and land degradation across the country.

Besides, all Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Missions related to agriculture of Ministry of Agriculture emphasize on resource conservation practices in arable lands for sustaining agricultural production across the country.